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ENG 2009-004: Literature and Human Values; Love, Hate, and Obsession

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English 2009 Literature and Human Values; Love, Hate, and Obsession

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Office hours: 10-12 T/R and by appt.

The aim of this course overall is to introduce you to a wide range of classical and popular literature and film that focuses in some way on the ideas of love, hate, and obsession. As authors and artists tell us, much of our lives, what vexes them, what makes them beautiful, follows from who and what we love, hate, and obsess over; the rest probably follows from the degree to which we are the object of someone else's love, hatred, and obsession. The books, stories, poems, and plays we'll read and the films we'll watch, I hope, will help us understand how this works.

Policies for the course are as follows. I expect regular attendance and will evaluate you on that. I also expect regular participation in class discussion, and will evaluate you on that. I also expect you to keep up with the reading, and will evaluate you on that. There may be unannounced quizzes, along with a take home midterm and final. Written work will be evaluated on the basis of both content and expression; your ideas count, as well as your skill with the tools of writing.

Books for the course

Dorothy Allison, Bastard out of CarolinaCharlotte Bronte, Jane EyreDaniel Defoe, Moll FlandersF. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great GatsbyNeil Gaiman, American GodsDashell Hammett, The Maltese FalconJ.D. Salinger, Franny and ZooeyWilliam Shakespeare, Othello